

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 24-31, 33 and 34 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 24 and 25 are amended and claims 33 and 34 are added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the specification because of the reference to Application No. 200002464. By this Amendment, the specification has been amended to clarify that this is a reference to a Spanish patent application, and to provide the Number of the Spanish Patent that resulted from this application. For the Examiner's information, U.S. Patent No. 6,539,659 claims priority to this Spanish patent application, and is a U.S. equivalent. A copy of the Spanish Patent is enclosed for the Examiner's reference. In view of the amendments made to the specification, withdrawal of the objection to specification is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 24-31 under 35 USC §103(a) over Crisler (U.S. Patent No. 1,795,840). Because Crisler fails to disclose or suggest all the features of these claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Crisler discloses a cushion pad which can be attached to the butt end of a rifle stock. As shown in Crisler, a plate 11 is attached to the butt end of a rifle stock 10 with a plurality of screws 16. The plate 11 includes a flange 13 which extends around its exterior peripheral edge. In addition, a T-shaped extension extends rearward from plate 11. The T-shaped extension 15 also includes an edge flange 15a around its exterior edge.

The cushion pad 12 includes a central aperture which is configured to receive the T-shaped extension of the plate 11. To attach the cushion pad 12 to the butt of the gun stock 10, the T-shaped extension 15 of the plate 11 is inserted into the aperture in the cushion 12.

Independent claim 24 of the present application is directed to a rifle that includes a rifle support and a projectile propulsion mechanism comprising a barrel. Claim 24 recites screws that fix the barrel to the rifle support. An example of such a structure is shown in Figure 1 of the present application, where a barrel 3 is attached to a rifle support 4 with a plurality of screws 2. As shown in Figures 1 and 3, the screws 2 pass through apertures in the support 4 and into the gun barrel 3.

Claim 24 further recites a protective cover that covers an area of the rifle support including heads of the screws to protect a user therefrom. Claim 24 recites that the protective cover includes a main body having a predetermined width and length corresponding to a length and width of the area to be covered on the rifle support. Claim 24 further recites a fixing device that fixes the main body to the area to be covered, wherein the fixing device comprises one or more deformable protrusions on the main body that push-fit mate with one or more corresponding recesses on the rifle support.

An example of the protective cover and the fixing device recited in claim 24 are also shown in the drawings of the present application. As shown in Figures 1 and 4, the protective cover 5 includes a plurality of protrusions 6. The rifle support 4 includes a plurality of recesses 7. The deformable protrusions 6 on the main body of the cover of 5 push-fit mate with the recesses 7 on the rifle support 4.

Crisler fails to disclose or suggest a structure as recited in claim 24. To begin with, claim 24 requires screws that fix a barrel to the rifle support. The only screws shown in Crisler are used to attach the plate 11 to the butt end of the rifle stock 10. The screws in Crisler do not attach a barrel to the rifle stock.

In addition, claim 24 recites a fixing device which includes one or more deformable protrusions on a main body of the cover that push-fit mate with one or more corresponding recesses on the rifle support. In contrast, Crisler shows that an aperture would be formed in the cover, in this case the cushion pad 12. Crisler fails to disclose or suggest deformable protrusions on the cushion pad 12 (which corresponds to the claimed cover). The only protrusion in Crisler is the T-shaped extension 15 of the plate 11, which is attached to the rifle stock itself. And this T-shaped extension is not deformable.

Because Crisler fails to disclose or suggest all of the above discussed features of claim 24, it is respectfully submitted that claim 24 is allowable. Dependent claims 25-31 depend from claim 24 and are allowable for at least the same reasons, and for the additional features which they recite.

For instance, claim 25 recites that the main body is configured such that at least part of a perimeter portion thereof mates with and is received in the recess formed on an exterior surface

of the rifle support. In Crisler, no portion of the cushion 12 or the plate 11 mates with or is received in a recess formed on an exterior surface of the gun stock 10.

Likewise, claim 26 depends from claim 24 and further recites a positioning device that positions the main body of the cover on the rifle support. Crisler simply lacks any type of positioning device as recited in claim 26.

Claim 30 depends from claim 24 and recites that the fixing device comprises at least two deformable protrusions on the cover that push-fit mate with at least two recesses that receive and fit around the deformable protrusions. In the Crisler reference, there are no deformable protrusions on the cushion 12 that push-fit mate with any recesses formed on the gun stock 10. Claim 31 depends from claim 30 and further recites that the deformable protrusions have a mushroom shape. In contrast, the only protrusion in Crisler is the t-shaped extension which is formed of a hard metal, is not deformable, and is certainly not mushroom shaped.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 24-31 over Crisler is respectfully requested.

By this Amendment claims 33 and 34 are added to the application. Claim 33 depends from claim 26 and recites that the positioning device comprises a plurality of positioning projections formed on an interior surface of the main body of the protective cover. Claim 33 further recites a plurality of position recesses formed on the area to be covered on the rifle support, the plurality of positioning recesses receiving corresponding ones of the positioning projections to properly position the main body of the cover on the area to be covered on the rifle support. Crisler fails to disclose or suggest any type of positioning device corresponding to that which is recited in claim 33.

Claim 34 depends from claim 31 and recites that the one or more recesses on the rifle support comprise generally cylindrical recesses, and that a diameter of the cylindrical recesses changes along the depth of the cylindrical recesses, the diameter of the cylindrical recesses being greater at greater depths in the cylindrical recesses. Crisler fails to disclose or suggest any recesses formed on the rifle stock, let alone recesses as recited in claim 34.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 33 and 34 are allowable because of the features of the claims from which they depend, and for the additional features discussed above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Respectfully submitted,

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